







## CELEBRATING OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Flags from 193 countries recognized by the United Nations can be found hanging from light posts throughout Rockville Town Center. This idea came from the city's Diversity Town Hall meeting that took place in February 2017. Each flag is paired with an American flag to symbolize our support for the many residents from other countries who have made the United States and Rockville their home.

Flags are symbols of national pride. Here in Rockville, we are proud that our international community is growing. Share your pride with others while visiting Town Center. To find a flag, visit [bit.ly/flagmapRKV](http://bit.ly/flagmapRKV).

## COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Rockville's 47th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration will be held on Monday, Jan. 21, 2019. Co-sponsored by the city's Human Rights Commission and the Mayor and Council, the celebration includes multicultural performances and awards recognizing Rockville community members who are carrying on King's legacy. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk).



### LUNAR NEW YEAR

The city, in partnership with the city's Asian Pacific American Task Force, hosts its annual Lunar New Year celebration from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive. Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, interactive activities and cultural displays. In its 10th year, the celebration is a source of pride for the city's Asian community and an educational opportunity for neighbors to learn about Asian culture. Learn more on page 1 of this month's "Rockville Reports" and at [www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear).

# My Rockville: A Place Where You Can Be You!

My wife and I live in King Farm with our 1-year-old son. We moved to Rockville because of the great schools and the many amenities in the community.

I grew up in Brooklyn, New York, in a very diverse area. There is where my parents met and fell in love. I am the son of immigrants from China and the Caribbean. I lived around different people. Growing up in that environment and learning from different perspectives made me better as a person.

I love that Rockville has an immigrant community. People have lived here for a while. There is a lot of rich history. And the different people bring a lot of great things to the city: the food, the music, just the languages that you hear from the kids playing at the fountain in Town Center. I moved here because I want my son to be open-minded and make friends with all kinds of people.

Sometimes it is upon the person who is the minority to take the initiative to reach out. It is hard work, but eventually pays off.

I found a lot of things that excite me about Rockville. One is the great tapestry of people and great communities. I am also a salsa and hip-hop [dance] instructor. I would like to encourage more dancing, fun and music in the city. That is one of the reasons why I joined the [city's] Cultural Arts Commission. I would also like to see more interaction and engagement with different groups. I think that it could be more engagement with Asian-Americans in political and civic life. True diversity is one where different groups interact and influence

each other.

I think my son is the only Slovenian-Chinese kid in the world. I will advise my son to be proud of who he is, learn about your family, your heritage and roots, and also develop talents and skills that you can contribute to the general public for the greater good. In that way, people will identify you as a person and not just for what you look like.

*John Chu*



I was born in Réunion, a tiny island and region of France in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar. Growing up, my family was so diverse. They came in all shades and colors. I grew color blind, not because I cannot see color, but because I did not see people by their skin color.

While I was in Marseilles, France, working on my Ph.D., I was invited to come to Maryland to do cancer research at [the National Institutes of Health]. After many years renting and then

*Alexandra Dace Denito*



leaving to Louisiana, when I came back to Maryland my eyes were on Rockville. Now with two kids, my husband and I needed a place for a family that we could afford and that was closer to Metro. When we found Legacy at Lincoln Park, it was fate for our family to live there; a place that we could call home and that we could afford.

I love Rockville, because almost every person has an accent and, for that reason, I do not feel like a stranger in the city. This is my home and the people in my community are part of my family. This is thanks to Wilma Bell, a longtime resident of this community, who opened her heart one day when I was waiting for my kids' school bus in front of her house. She told me about Legacy, and how it came to be, and took me under her care. She thought of me greater than I thought of myself and encouraged me and my kids. They saw her as their grandma. Both Wilma Bell and Fran Hawkins welcomed me and showed me the heart of a neighborhood open for new generations. All that we need to make a better place for all is to smile more, say hello, put our guard down and eliminate biases. If we do this, our community will be more inclusive and people will be happier.

To me, living in Lincoln Park was a dream come true. Coming from a family with African and slave background, Lincoln Park represented freedom and a great place to live. My family in Réunion Island are surprised to see that Rockville is like home, rich in diversity and full of culture and entertainment.

Also, as a scientist, I have a passion for education, and Rockville schools offer my kids the opportunity to learn French and to have access to great facilities like the science center. I have become involved in my community, advocating for a science center and in the Stonestreet Corridor Study. I am so glad that Wilma Bell crossed the street that day, because the same day a gap was closed and I felt like I was home.

I was born in the United States of Colombian parents and when I was a toddler my family moved back to Colombia. I get a lot of inspiration from my grandfather, who was a mayor and later a congressman in Colombia. Sometimes, when I need to make a decision, I look up to my grandfather's picture and ask him "Abuelito [Granddaddy], what would you do?" I grew up in Medellín, Colombia, where I finished high school. I always had plans to come to the USA, so I decided to come to go to school to study chemistry. But after realizing that this was not my passion, I went back to Colombia. There, I graduated with a degree in business with minors in economics and finance, and later I completed a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing.

My business started in the basement of my house, and one day I decided to come to Rockville because it was the best location I could find. It is central to talented staff and has many forward-thinking companies like ours. When I first came to Rockville, I found that Rockville had more and more to offer to businesses, and that was very attractive. My company runs a multimillion-dollar operation and it is expanding in Rockville. Because of the work that we do, we are able to find people from every walk of life right here in Rockville.

The reasons that make me stay in Rockville go beyond the business. It is the place, the community and the people that make me call this place "My Rockville."



*Jorge Restrepo*



## More 'My Rockville': Watch for these profiles airing in February on Rockville 11.

Rockville is a place where you can grow and become your best self, no matter who you are or where you're from. The #MyRockville campaign, launching this year will show how. Visit [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com) for details in the coming weeks.



*Tom & Susan Mabie*

Tom and Susan Mabie have lived in the city for many years. Originally from New Jersey and Massachusetts, this family chose Rockville because of its small-town feel. "When we first moved more than two decades ago to Twinbrook, we found this to be convenient because of being close to work and to the Metro, as well as its affordable housing," Tom said. They were also attracted to how close the city was to farmland.

The landscape of the city has changed over the years, but there are many things that are still attractive to the family, such as Hometown Holidays, recreation centers and many business opportunities. Coming from New Hampshire, where it was difficult to get out in winter, they enjoy the milder climate. Having access

to services for their special needs son was also a plus of being in the city. They home-schooled their son and took advantage of some of the services provided by the city's recreation and parks programs, such as the special-needs karate class. Today, Sam is an accomplished soccer player who will compete this year in the Special Olympics USA Games in Seattle. The family has also added a new member to their home: Tom's mother, who is enjoying the activities offered at the Rockville Senior Center.

"We love the diversity in the city and we celebrate the strengths, opportunities and offerings that Rockville has," Susan said.

## INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Rockville residents come from around the world. The city hosts a night celebrating the many communities that contribute to Rockville's ranking as the nation's ninth most diverse city, on Friday, March 23 at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive in Rockville Civic Center Park. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/internationalnight](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/internationalnight).



## HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS MUSIC FEST

In its 30th year, this Memorial Day weekend tradition brings more than 25 local, regional and national performing artists and the best local food to six city blocks in Rockville Town Center, May 26-27, followed by the city's 74th Annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 28. Learn more as details are announced at [www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH).

## LGBTQ PRIDE CELEBRATION

Rockville celebrates its role as a city of inclusion with an LGBTQ pride celebration sponsored by the city's Human Rights Commission and other community partners. For more information about the celebration, and other LGBTQ initiatives, email Janet Kelly at [jkelly@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jkelly@rockvillemd.gov) or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/diversitytownhall](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/diversitytownhall).

## ROCKTOBIERFEST

Rocktoberfest will feature two stages of entertainment, including traditional German and rock music, German food, artisans, kids' activities, and beverages for sale by local breweries. Date and time to be determined. Held at Rockville Town Center. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rocktoberfest](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rocktoberfest).



## WORLD OF MONTGOMERY

The City of Rockville partners with Montgomery County, foreign embassies and the KID Museum to celebrate the county's rich diversity through international music, food, dance, cultural arts demonstrations, hands-on activities and more, each October at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St. Learn more at [worldofmontgomery.com](http://worldofmontgomery.com).



EDUCATION

DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

The city’s Human Rights Commission offers a free diversity leadership workshop for students attending Rockville-area high schools or Montgomery College, Rockville Campus. The dynamic, highly interactive workshop provides students with tools to handle difficult situations with an understanding of diverse populations, and is designed to help students recognize prejudice and create an environment of inclusion in their schools. The next workshop is scheduled for 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 21. For more information, email Janet Kelly at [jkelly@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jkelly@rockvillemd.gov) or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights).

ROCKVILLE CITY ACADEMY

Rockville City Academy is a free, highly interactive, six-session course that offers opportunities for Rockville residents to learn, from those who lead city departments, about how the City of Rockville operates. Through lectures and tours, community members will learn about community resources and about how to become a community leader. For more information, call 240-314-8344 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/academy](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/academy).

ROCKVILLE CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Rockville City Police Department’s free course gives community members the opportunity to learn what it takes to be a police officer. It includes hands-on training and a closer look at crime-scene processing, firearms simulations, the K-9 unit, traffic law, detectives and investigations, and the bomb unit. For more information, email Cpl. Ken Matney at [kmatney@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:kmatney@rockvillemd.gov).

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS SEMINAR

Sponsored by the city’s Human Rights Commission, this free seminar gives community members, particularly new immigrants, information about their rights, and the tools to build a healthy, happy life in Rockville. For more information, contact Janet Kelly at [jkelly@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jkelly@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8316.

TOOLS

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The city’s human rights program works to ensure equal treatment, free of discrimination, for people who live, visit or work in the City of Rockville. The commission is charged with minimizing the effects of conflict and promoting appreciation of diversity within the city. Residents or visitors who feel that they have experienced discrimination based on age, ancestry, creed, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, sexual orientation, gender or presence of children may file a complaint through the Human Rights Office. Complaints that are determined to be discriminatory may be heard by the Human Rights Commission. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights).

LGBTQ LIAISON/HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN INDEX

Rockville scored perfect marks for its commitment to the health, welfare, safety and equality of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community on the Human Rights Campaign’s 2017 Municipal Equality Index scorecard. The city offers personalized services to LGBTQ residents through community liaisons who can provide access to information, assist in finding services and support wellbeing and safety. The city’s liaisons are Janet Kelly and Sgt. Jan Seilhamer. For more information, call 240-314-5000. To learn more about the city’s recent marks on the HRC score-

card, visit [RockvilleReports.com/rockville-scores-top-marks-for-lgbtq-support](http://RockvilleReports.com/rockville-scores-top-marks-for-lgbtq-support).

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN TASK FORCE

The Asian Pacific American Task Force fosters communication between the Asian-American community and the city government. The task force also provides resources, educates the public about the contributions of Asian-Americans and engages Asian-American businesses and residents in city-sponsored activities, such as the Lunar New Year celebration. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/apataskforce](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/apataskforce).

CHARLES W. GILCHRIST IMMIGRANT RESOURCE CENTER

Part of Montgomery County’s Office of Community Partnerships, the Gilchrist Center provides county immigrants with information and referrals to programs and services offered by government agencies and community organizations, English and basic computer classes, and opportunities to prepare for civic life and/or U.S. citizenship. Learn more at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist).

ROCKVILLE VILLAGES

Villages are grassroots, volunteer networks that aim to support Rockville neighbors who choose to age and thrive in place. They foster intergenerational social connections through activities and events and coordinate volunteer help at home using a neighbor-helping-neighbor model. For more information, contact Trish Evans, village facilitator, at 240-314-8807 or [pevans@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:pevans@rockvillemd.gov) or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/villages](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/villages).

COMMUNITY POLICING

The Rockville City Police Department is a fully accredited agency

that works with the community to provide the best police protection, services, education and enforcement. The department is committed to community policing that ensures the safety and protection of homes, businesses, schools and the people who occupy them. Visit the police station in the historic post office building at 2 W. Montgomery Ave., or call 240-314-8900. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/police](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/police).

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The city is committed to providing access to city programs and services through the Americans with Disabilities Act. Community members in need of a modification to assist them in attending a city program or accessing a city facility or service should fill out the ADA Request for Modification Form at [www.rockvillemd.gov/ADA](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/ADA) or contact Janet Kelly, ADA coordinator, at 240-314-8108, relay 711, TTY 240-314-8137 or [jkelly@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jkelly@rockvillemd.gov).

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The city’s Community Services Division supports the well-being of Rockville residents by identifying their social services needs, monitoring city-funded human service programs, and providing prevention and intervention programs and services for youth and families. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/communityservices](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/communityservices).

RECREATION AND PARKS

The city cares for and maintains Rockville’s 65 parks, three community centers and multiple facilities, including Glenview Mansion and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall, and organizes hundreds of programs and activities each year to promote a healthy and active lifestyle. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation).

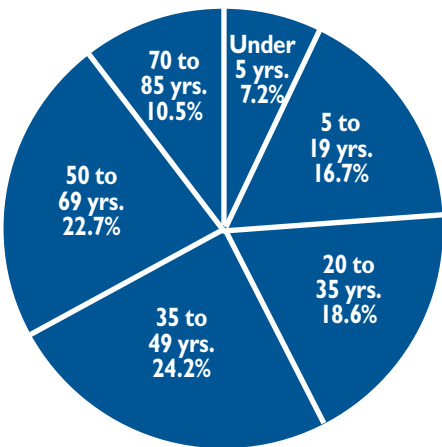
2016 CENSUS ESTIMATES

Population	66,940
Median Household Income	\$101,774
People in Poverty	7.3%
Educational Attainment:	
High School Graduate or Higher	93%
People Without Health Insurance	8.1%
Median Housing Value	\$499,400
Total Housing Units	25,985
Number of Companies	9,589
Male Median Income	\$61,599
Female Median Income	\$40,382
Veterans	2,932

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau: Vintage 2016 Population Estimates: Population Estimates; 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; 2012 Survey of Business Owners: Company Summary.

AGE BY THE NUMBERS

The city has an aging population. All age groups are projected to grow in absolute numbers, but the proportion in each age group will change. Rockville has a higher share of 25- to 34-year-olds than either Montgomery County or the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. In 2014, 16.9 percent of Rockville’s population was age 25 to 34 (up from 14.2 percent in 2000). This share for Rockville compared to 13.5 percent in Montgomery County and 15.5 percent in the Washington, D.C., region.



Sources: 2010 census.

ONE VOICE WITH MANY LANGUAGES

In 2010, 84 percent of the city’s foreign-born population spoke a language other than English at home and 43 percent spoke English less than very well.

Language:	Spanish	Chinese	Korean	Russian	Persian	Tagalog
1980	1,567	620	n/a	n/a	n/a	133
2010	8,416	4,793	1,148	1,225	988	918

Sources: 2010 census.



“I live in a very ethnically diverse neighborhood and I feel richer for it.”

– Carol, Rockville Resident